Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—For the reasons now given out by the Hon'ble Secretary is it not a clear case that all these debtors were not in a position to pay their debts?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—It does not mean that. It will be seen from the next answer itself that the number of persons who have put in insolvency petitions is only three.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Does it not follow that at least these three persons were in the jail, simply because, of their inability to pay? They served their full term.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I do not think that inference follows.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Is the Government of opinion that when a man is sent to Civil Jail, he deliberately remains there because of his unwillingness to pay?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—If the Hon'ble Member is asking my individual opinion, I have to say that there are very many people there . . . . .

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—I wish to like to have the opinion of the Government.

Mr. President.—Government's opinion has already been given.

Petitions—Debt Conciliation Board.

105. Mr. A. Narayana Menon *(Vyttila).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the number of petitions filed before the Debt Conciliation Board (a) by debtors, (b) by creditors, in 1112 and 1113 till to day (24th Thulam 1113);

(2) how many of the debtors were (a) simple decree debtors (b) mortgagors or their assignees who had possession of the properties (c) mortgagors or assignees of mortgagors who had surrendered possession to mortgagees (d) judgment-debtors whose properties were (a) proclaimed for sale (i) for simple debts (ii) mortgage decrees (b) sold by court; were stay petitions filed in such cases; if so, how many cases;

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(3) the number of petitions disposed of (a) for formal defects (b) on merits?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—

(1)	(a)	1112	196
		1113	254
	(b)	1112	7
		1113	4

(2) The information is not readily available.

(3) (a) 51

(b) 16.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon *(Vyttila).*—Cannot the information be gathered from the Debt Conciliation Board Office itself?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—It is rather an impossible task so far as the Debt Conciliation Board is concerned with two clerks and the Judges going on circuit, 3 days at Ernakulam, 3 days at Irinjalakkuda and 3 days at Cranganur to collect all this information. The very nature of the question itself will give the House the idea of the difficult task. We have to collect a good deal of statistics.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon *(Vyttila).*—The petitioners will generally be only mortgaged-debtors.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I cannot say that.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi).*—General reports of the working of the department are submitted. Will the Government be pleased to give an abstract report of the work of the Board?

Mr. President.—Only quarterly reports are sent and they will be published.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur).*—Are the Government aware that the small number of cases disposed of is due to want of sufficient power for the Debt Conciliation Board? Only 16 petitions have been disposed of on merit.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—We are in the 4th month of its working and the petitions cannot be summarily dismissed. Hon'ble Members know that there are several processes to be gone through before a petition can

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be finally disposed. Notices have to be issued, witnesses have to be examined and all that.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—The Hon'ble Member was asking about the sufficiency of powers.

Mr. President.—One of the difficulties of the Board is that after the debtor files a petition it is difficult to get him afterwards.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Has the Government, Sir, noted the point in the recent Madras Agriculturists Relief Bill of an observation that there the Debt Conciliation Board work has been a failure and it is because of that failue that the Agriculturists Relief Bill has been promoted ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I have just received a copy of the bill that has been introduced. In fact if the Hon'ble Member will refer to the leading article in the Mail of yesterday he can understand the opinion of a leading Madras daily about the bill.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—We know 'Madras Mail' a vested interest organ.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—It also appeard in the Hindu.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—The Mail is the Madras Gomathi.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—Anyway it is too early to express an opinion about that.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi).*— In how many cases amicable settlement was effected ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I like to have notice to answer that.

Graduate rule—Exemption—Recommendations by Heads of Departments.

106. **Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi).*— Will the Government be pleased to state the following :—

(a) the number of cases recommended by Departmental Heads for exemption from graduate rule for posts carrying a salary of Rs. 60 and above, in the year 1113 ;

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